

Serial No. 10/743,303
Reply to Office Action of January 4, 2007

Docket No. LT-0034

Amendments to the Drawings

Replacement Sheets for Figures 1-4 have been submitted with this paper to provide a legend to overcome the drawing objection.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets for Figures 1-4

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-11, 13-21, and 23-27 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 15, 21, and 23-25 have been amended and claims 6, 12, and 22 have been canceled. In addition, Replacement Sheets for Figures 1-4 have been submitted with this paper to overcome the drawing objection.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-12, 14, 15, and 17-27 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) for being anticipated by the Sasaki patent. This rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a control circuit for generating a main pulse for the driving signal and a sub pulse having a prescribed width that at least partially overlaps the main pulse. The sub pulse is generated at a prescribed amount of time prior to generating the main pulse, where the prescribed amount of time corresponding to a portion of a duty ratio of said timing signal.

In addition to these features, claim 1 recites that “the driving signal rises substantially to a first level during the prescribed amount of time prior to when the main pulse is generated, and the driving signal maintains substantially said first level for a remaining time of the prescribed width of the sub pulse.” (See, for example, Figure 9 for support). The Sasaki patent does not disclose these features.

The Sasaki patent discloses generating an EQEFM signal as a main pulse and an

ODP_FIRST signal as a sub pulse. As shown in Figure 7, the sub pulse signal is generated prior to the main pulse. The sub pulse is also shown to partially overlap the main pulse. Notwithstanding these features, the Sasaki patent does not disclose that an LD driving signal is generated in the same manner as recited in claim 1 from the main and sub pulses.

More specifically, a first pulse generating circuit 33 forms the sub pulse signal by switching a switch SW2, which is controlled based on a desired writing speed. (See column 8, lines 16-18 and Figure 2). Based on the main pulse (EQEFM) and sub pulse (ODP_FIRST), an LD driving signal (LD OPTICAL OUTPUT) is generated. (See Figure 7). However, this driving signal does not correspond to the driving signal recited in claim 1, i.e., Sasaki does not disclose that its driving signal “rises substantially to a first level during the prescribed amount of time prior to when the main pulse is generated, and the driving signal maintains substantially said first level for a remaining time of the prescribed width of the sub pulse.” Absent a disclosure of these features, it is respectfully submitted that the Sasaki patent does not anticipate claim 1 or any of its dependent claims.

Claims 8, 11, and 21 recite features similar to those which patentably distinguish claim 1 from the Sasaki patent. Based on these features, it is respectfully submitted that claims 8, 11, 21, and their dependent claims are allowable over the Sasaki patent.

Claims 3, 6, and 9 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) for being obvious in view of a Sasaki-Yokoi combination. This rejection is traversed on grounds that the Yokoi patent fails to

teach or suggest the features of base claims 1 and 8 missing from the Sasaki patent.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cancellation of claim 6 renders the rejection under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and timely allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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